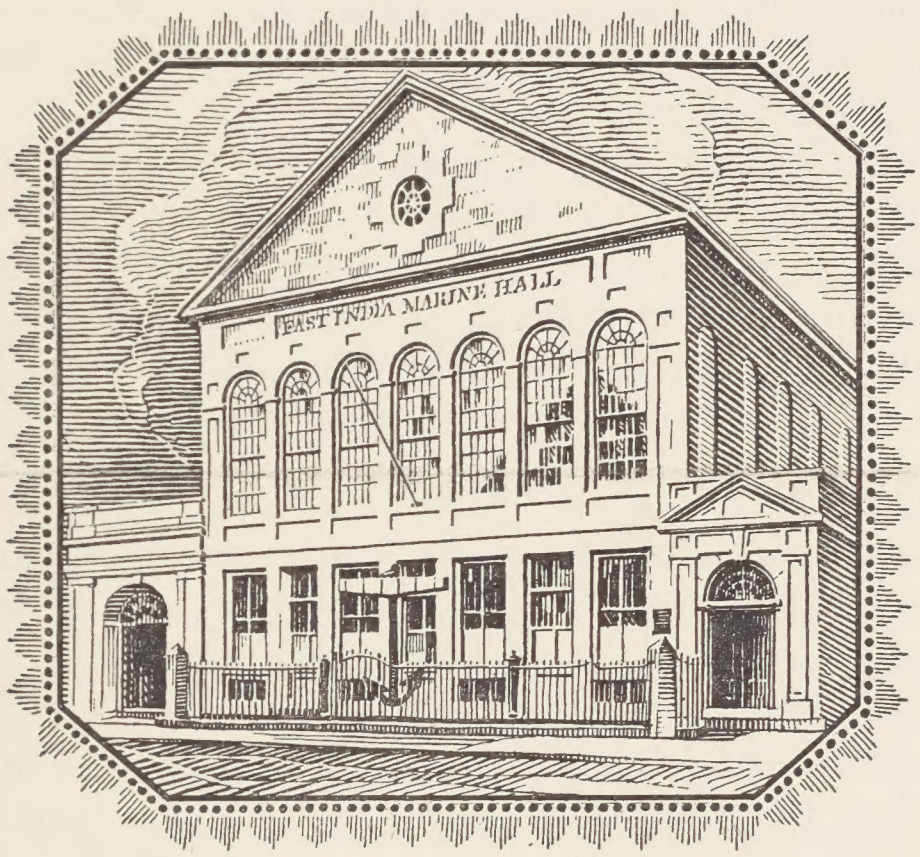
PEABODY MUSEUM

Salem, Massachusetts

Circular of Information

1939



The Museum is open every week-day, including holidays, from 9 A.M. *to* 5 P.M., *and on Sundays* 2 *to* 5 P.M., *from May* 1 *to September* 30; 1 *to* 4 P.M. *from October* 1 *to April* 30. Free to All

THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM, under the title of "The Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science," but changed by act of Legislature in 1915 to the simpler and more fitting one of "Peabody Museum of Salem," was founded in 1867 for the "promotion of science and useful knowledge in the County of Essex," by George Peabody, who was born in South Danvers, now Peabody, Essex County, Massachusetts, 18 February 1795, and died in London 8 November 1869.

The East India Marine Hall, erected in 1824, was purchased and refitted, and the Museum of the East India Marine Society (begun in 1799) and the Natural History Collections of the Essex Institute (begun in 1834) were received by the Trustees as permanent deposits and placed therein. To these have been added many valuable collections especially in the Marine and Oriental departments.

The institution is for the benefit of the residents of the more remote portions of Essex County as well as those in the immediate vicinity of Salem, although under the trust the Museum must be in Salem, and the work largely carried on there. The Museum is visited by more than sixty thousand persons annually.

The collections may be summarized as follows:

Entrance Corridor

The cases at the right contain recent accessions, loan collections and objects illustrating the natural history of whales and the whaling industry. The exhibits in the cases at the left are frequently changed to illustrate subjects of timely interest. The entrance corridor leads to a stair hall in which are exhibited figureheads and builder's half-models of Essex County vessels.

Marine Room (at left of stair hall)

In this room is arranged a collection of paintings of Chinese and other foreign ports, models and water-color pictures of Salem merchant vessels, pictures of steamships and maritime curiosities.

John Robinson Hall (at right of stair hall)

In this room is arranged a collection of portraits of prominent Salem merchants and master-mariners, relics connected with the early social character of the East India Marine Society, oil paintings of Salem ships and models of various American naval and merchant vessels.

Academy Hall Corridor (*at end of stair hall*)

Here are arranged nautical instruments, tools of the shipwright, cooper, rigger and sailmaker, weapons, flags, lighting devices, souvenirs of ships and ship masters, and objects associated with a sailor's life.

Hall of Natural History (*first hall upstairs*)

To the right on entering the hall are displayed collections illustrating the natural history of Essex County, with particular emphasis upon the local birds, while to the left is a synoptic collection of the animals of the world.

In the galleries above are displayed very full collections of local prehistoric relics, local minerals and rocks, and woods of the County trees; a small type collection of minerals arranged according to Dana's Mineralogy, one of fossils illustrating historical geology from the oldest to the most recent formations, and a number of interesting botanical specimens. A large herbarium of the County plants, the Morris collection of 1,100 water-color drawings of fungi, and extensive collections of the insects of the County and vicinity may be consulted upon application through the constable to an officer of the Museum.

East Hall (*enter from southern end of Natural History Hall*)

This hall contains a collection arranged by countries, illustrating the utensils, implements of war, articles of dress, religion, art, etc., of the natives of the Malay Archipelago, Pacific Islands (floor), Yezo, North and South America and Africa (gallery). The collection covering Marquesas, New Zealand, Fiji and other Pacific Islands is one of the notable collections of the world. Brought together by the sea captains of Salem in the early years of the last century, many of the objects bear dates of over one hundred years ago, and some of them are unique.

Weld Hall (*enter from southern end of East Hall*)

On the floor of this hall is displayed the Japanese ethnological collection, the largest and most complete possessed by any museum, which very fully illustrates the people, customs, domestic and religious life of old Japan. In the gallery are collections from China, Siam, India, Tibet and Korea. For the art of these countries the visitor is referred to the Museum of Fine Arts, Huntington Avenue, Boston.

The publications of the Museum may be obtained from the constable, who will also direct visitors where any particular collection may be found. Those who desire any further information will please request the constable to call some officer of the Museum. There is no fee whatever for any assistance which may be rendered.

The trustees and officers wish the public to receive every possible advantage from the Museum, and they hope that all who are able to do so will aid them by contributing toward the increase and improvement of the collections, which have been received almost wholly by gift. The work is conducted and the Museum maintained entirely from the income of the trust funds and the contributions of generous friends. The annual expenses have increased with the growth of the Museum, and the work and usefulness of the institution could be greatly advanced by additions to its funds and income.

Peabody Museum of Salem

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In answer to numerous inquiries: The Essex Institute (132 Essex Street) has a valuable collection of objects relating to the early history of New England, open free to the public daily except Sunday, and an excellent library on local history, genealogy, art, commercial marine, China, etc.